



SCDDSN FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

I want to thank everyone for all the positive feedback I received from you regarding the first DDSN Newsletter. I received numerous emails from you asking to add your name to the list for receiving the newsletter electronically. I will be happy to add anyone else as requested to this list. I also received many ideas for future newsletters which was also appreciated. You may also find this newsletter by going to our website at <http://ddsn.sc.gov> and opening RECENT NEWS at the top of the webpage, then scrolling down to the middle of the page where the most recent newsletter will be made available for you to access. Again, I welcome any suggestions for ways to improve the newsletter or topics of interest you would like to see featured in future newsletters as we work towards building the bridge of communication with you and our agency. Feel free to contact me via email at Nhall@ddsn.sc.gov or by phone at 803-898-9650.

DDSN MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to assist people with disabilities in meeting their needs, pursuing their individual possibilities and achieving their life goals, and to minimize the occurrence and reduce the severity of disabilities through prevention.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

❖ HEALING FARMS MINISTRIES

Community Night-beginning Wednesday, April 14th and the second Wednesday of each month thereafter, join them at the Juvo Center for a meal and fellowship time from 6-8:00pm.

Caregiver's Half Day Getaway on May 8th from 9:00am to 3:30pm. The day will end with an afternoon boat cruise around Charleston.

Special Needs Bicycle Camp-this camp will assist in teaching up to 40 special needs children how to ride a conventional bike.

For further information on these events visit their website at: <http://www.healingfarm.org/>

❖ VIDEO MODELING WORKSHOP

April 16th from 9:30-3:00 at Midlands Center Training Center in Columbia, SC. Intervention training and education for people with autism.

For further information visit the website at:

www.dttrainer.com/vmworkshop or call 803-233-0541.

❖ EDCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONFERENCE

EdVenture is hosting this first annual event for parents, teachers, and caregivers of children with disabilities on April 17, 2010 from 8am-1:00pm.

You must register to attend. For further information visit their website at:

<http://www.edventure.org/> or call at 803-400-1139.

❖ FAMILY CONNECTION'S ANNUAL BENEFIT AND AUCTION

Celebrating 20 years of support for families with children with special needs. April 18th at 6:00pm located at Saluda River Club, Chickawa Outdoor Center, 644 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC.

For more information call locally at 803-252-0914 or toll free at 800-578-8750 or visit their website: www.familyconnectionsc.org/.

❖ PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Celebrating Abilities-An evening of Jazz and Art. April 30th from 6-9:00pm. at the Meridian Building. For further information visit their website at:

<http://pandasc.org/>

❖ **YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

For students with disabilities from ages 17-21(as of 12/31/09)Newberry College July 14th-16th. For further information call them at 803-896-6574 or visit their website at:

<http://www.scvrd.net/ylf>

❖ **FREE AUDIO CONFERENCE**

This free conference will be held May 5th from 2-3:00pm. It is for anyone interested in learning more about how to best explore public transportation options for people with disabilities. To learn more visit their website at:

[http://www.disability.gov/transportation/news %26 events](http://www.disability.gov/transportation/news_%26_events)

❖ **SPECIAL NEEDS AIR SHOW AT SHAW AIR FORCE BASE**

May 7th from 12:00-3:30pm. Airmen will be in attendance to assist with a hand in hand tour of the different aircraft as well as having an aerial demonstration. I have been asked by Lt. Emily Young for you to email her at Emily.Young@shaw.af.mil no later than April 23rd if you are attending so they will know approximately how many people to expect.

❖ **STRIDES FOR AUTISM**

May 15th at Finlay Park. Sponsored by the South Carolina Autism Society. Registration begins at 8am and walk begins at 9:00am. For further information visit their website:

www.scautism.org

IN THE KNOW

- *The Center for Disability Resources, South Carolina's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disability Education, Research and Service is part of a network of more*

than sixty centers located at major universities throughout the United States. The Center has been working to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families for more than 25 years.

- The SC Assistive Technology Advisory Committee is following up on last year's WEB TESTERS PILOT PROGRAM with another program that will use people who utilize assistive technology. For further information contact janet.jendron@uscmed.sc.edu.*
- Have you heard about the Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding Program? They have been serving individuals with a variety of disabilities since 1991. They have assistance from certified instructors, physical therapists, doctors, psychologists, special education teachers, and a well trained volunteer corps. For more information call them at 843-559-6040 or visit their website at: <http://www.catrffarms.org/>.*
- Have you visited the National Center on Physical Activity and Disability website at www.ncpad.org? You can sign up for their monthly electronic newsletter at: <http://www.ncpad.org/newsletter/>.*
- In the March Newsletter The College Transition Connection was shared. The College of Charleston is the latest college to team with this organization. The four year inclusive program is designed to provide students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in the academic, residential, social, and professional experiences offered by the college, with appropriate support for success. To learn more about this program or the four other colleges who are participating in this program visit their website at: <http://collegetransitionconnection.org/>*

CONGRATULATIONS

HATS OFF to Mr. Lester Porter of Springfield, South Carolina

Mr. Porter is the winner of the 2010 Employment Achievement Award from the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. This award is given to a South Carolinian who has met the challenges presented by significant disability and succeeded in the workplace and within his community. He will be honored at a luncheon on May 7th in Columbia.

Greenwood Genetics Center was the winner of the 2010 Palmetto Workforce Partnership Award for the medium business category. Among the criteria used in selecting the winner are quality of the work environment, impact on the community's quality of life, and support for human growth and development in the workplace.

DDSN EMPLOYEE UPDATE:

Mr. Tom Waring has been promoted to the Associate State Director of Administration for SCDDSN.

Ms. Lisa Weeks has been promoted to the Director of Budgeting Systems.

DDSN WEBSITE TIP OF THE MONTH

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN ACCESS IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AT: <http://ddsn.sc.gov> and going to the left tab titled ABOUT DDSN, opening this tab, then opening the tab to the left under this titled CONTACTS and viewing the middle of the screen for the various names and phone numbers you may need?